

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-17 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 8-10, 12-13 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Also, the Examiner has indicated that claims 4-7, 11 and 14-16 contain allowable subject matter.

**I. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,738,224 to Sommer, Jr. et al. (“Sommer”)**

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 8-10, 12-13 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Sommer.

**A. Claim 1**

Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references. For example, claim 1 recites an object unit is attachable in a predetermined device and has a storage element. Claim 1 further recites, “an information reception module that receives the information regarding the object unit, which is carried on the electromagnetic wave in the predetermined frequency band and is sent from the storage element of the collected object unit entering the preset coverage area, in response to transmission of the specific electromagnetic wave in the predetermined frequency band.”

The Examiner maintains that Sommer discloses the above features. However, Sommer is directed towards sorting out recyclable parts using an electromagnetic wave to detect absorption and penetration characteristics of the materials radiated (col. 4, lines 40-51). Materials having different electromagnetic absorption and penetration characteristics are ejected at different times

and locations on the conveyor into different sorting bins (col. 4, lines 51-57). For example, electromagnetic radiation passes through items of different materials (i.e., glass and plastic) to differing degrees and the absorption and penetration characteristics help distinguish how these items should be sorted.

On the other hand, in the present invention, sorting is conducted through information sent from a storage element of the collected object. Thus, sorting is not based merely on characteristics of the object itself, as in Sommer, but rather on information provided by a storage element of the object. Thus, Applicant submits that claim 1 is not taught or suggested by Sommer, and respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

**B. Claims 2, 3, 8 and 9**

Since claims 2, 3, 8 and 9 are dependent upon claim 1, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

**C. Claims 10 and 12**

Since claims 10 and 12 contain analogous features as discussed above for claim 1, Applicant submits that claims 10 and 12 are patentable for at least analogous reasons as claim 1.

**D. Claims 13 and 17**

Since claims 13 and 17 are dependent upon claim 12, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

**II. Allowable Subject Matter**

As set forth above, the Examiner has indicated that claims 4-7, 11 and 14-16 contain allowable subject matter.

**III. Conclusion**

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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